

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A growth medium for plants or mushrooms, the medium comprising sugar cane mill mud and a non sphagnum-peat.

18. (New) The growth medium of claim 17 wherein the ratio of sugar cane mill mud to non sphagnum-peat is between about 1:1.4 to about 1:2 parts by weight.

19. (New) The growth medium of claim 18, wherein the ratio is about 1:1.4.

20. (New) The growth medium of claim 17, wherein the peat is sedge peat.

21. (New) The growth medium of claim 17 which is in the form of a casing soil composition.

22. (New) The growth medium of claim 21, further comprising about 65 to 75% wt/vol water.

23. (New) The growth medium of claim 22, which further includes an additive selected from the group comprising a fungicide, an insecticide, a nematocide, a wetting agent and a pH controlling agent.

24. (New) The growth medium of claim 17, which further includes about 30 to about 80 wt % of an inert filler.

25. (New) The growth medium of claim 24, which includes between about 60 to about 70% of an inert filler.

26. (New) The growth medium of claim 24, wherein the inert filler is bagasse.

27. (New) A growth medium for plants or mushrooms, the medium comprising sugar cane mill mud and a non sphagnum-peat material selected from the group consisting of a non sphagnum-peat and coconut fibre.

28. (New) The growth medium of claim 27, wherein the material is coconut fibre and the ratio of sugar cane mill mud to non sphagnum-peat material is between about 1:1.4 to about 1:2 parts by weight.

29. (New) The growth medium of claim 28 which is in the form of a casing soil composition.